

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 25, 2006 has been reviewed and the comments of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on July 25, 2006.

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-14 and 18 are allowed. Claims 15-17 and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kuang (U.S. Pat. No. 5,264,764).

This Amendment amends the rejected independent claims to incorporate features from claims 1 and 18 that were acknowledged to include allowable subject matter in the January 25, 2006 Office Action. Some of the rejected dependent claims are also amended for consistency, and to incorporate additional features that were likewise acknowledged to include allowable subject matter. The amendments do not add any additional claims, and present the rejected claims in a better form for consideration on appeal. The amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, and were not presented earlier because they are made in response to the final rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered.

By this Amendment, claims 15, 16, 19, and 22-24 are amended to incorporate features recited in claims 1 and 18 that were acknowledge to include allowable subject matter in the January 25, 2006 Office Action. Claim 17 has been amended because of the amendments to claim 15. Accordingly, claims 15-17 and 19-24 are allowable for at least the reasons relating to claims 1 and 18. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of at least claims 1-24.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3840. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Laub
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 38,708

Date: September 25, 2006
Patent Administrator
Proskauer Rose LLP
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: 202.416.6800
Facsimile: 202.416.6899
CUSTOMER NO: 61263

Customer No. 61263